

STM Article #3

DPW Facility Column

Transfer Funds from Free Cash to DPW Facility Capital

- To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Capital Account for the purposes of repairing or replacing a load bearing beam in the highway barn or possibly purchasing a temporary structure or leasing space to garage critical highway equipment.
- This article was **supported** by the Select Board, Advisory Board and Capital Planning Committee and has no impact on the tax rate.

Board of Selectmen
November 15th
Town Administrator
February 1st
Town Assessor
November 15th
Town Clerk
February 1st
Tax Collector
November 1st
Treasurer
February 1st or 15th
Board of Assessors
November 1st
Land Use Office
November 1st
Planning Board
February 1st
Conservation Commission
February 1st



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

*Town Hall, 32 Main Street
Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430*

Animal Control
Board of Health
Building Commission
Conservation Commission
Council on Aging
Cultural Council
Electrical Inspector
Fire & Disaster Inspector
Historical Commission
Municipal Planning
Public & Recreation
Planning Board
Senior Board of Appeals

PHONE : (978)-827-4100
FAX : (978) 827-4101

21 June 2021

Brian Doheny
32 Main Street
Ashburnham, MA 01430

RE: Repairs needed at main support column at DPW garage

Mr. Doheny,

At the request of Steve Nimms, former head of DPW, I reviewed the condition of the central steel support column in the main garage at DPW. The base of the post is rusted through and has shifted sideways from its original location and dropped in height due to the damage. You can see the damage in the photos below.

This is a dangerous condition. The column is no longer able to support the loads it was designed to support, nor is it pinned to the footing or slab at its base, so if it were hit, the entire column could move and risk structural collapse of the building. It should be replaced in accordance with an engineered design as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Sarah Culgin
Building Commissioner
Zoning Enforcement Officer
Town of Ashburnham, MA











Indoor Storage is Necessary

- The equipment should not be stored outside.
- It **protects** the Town's investment in equipment.
- Locating vehicles indoors reduces maintenance costs, protects vehicles from corrosive conditions, extends useful life of the vehicles and protects against vandalism.
- A **minimally heated** environment enhances the performance of the vehicles, **eliminating potential delays associated with cold engines and frozen equipment**.
- It allows employees to quickly access their vehicles and connect to necessary equipment needed to meet the **immediate needs** of the community during extreme weather conditions.

• *Source: Weston & Sampson Technical Memorandum*

In Conclusion

- The Building inspector deems the column as a **dangerous situation**.
- The timing of this repair is **critical** in allowing the building to be used to store the DPW trucks before the winter snow arrives.
- The wording of the article **allows flexibility to either repair or explore other options** to house equipment.
- Most importantly the funds are needed so that the **safety** of the personnel is not jeopardized this winter.
- This article was **supported** by the Select Board, Advisory Board and Capital Planning Committee and has no impact on the tax rate.